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REPORT ON STUDIES AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Report of the Secretary-General

1. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/116, called for the updating and preparation of certain publications for the World Conference on Human Rights. These publications are United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights, Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments and Human Rights: Status of International Instruments. In the same resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to prepare a reference guide to all United Nations studies and reports on human rights and related aspects. The present document contains a status report on this work.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 4 V (a) of General Assembly resolution 46/116, the necessary tasks have been initiated, in consultation with other bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a full inventory of United Nations studies and reports on human rights and related aspects, with a view to preparing a reference guide to such studies and reports. Based on the progress achieved to date, the Secretary-General expects to complete the manuscript for this project by the autumn of 1992. The Preparatory Committee may also wish to note that a human rights bibliography is under preparation by the United Nations Library at Geneva and the Centre for Human Rights. It is expected that the bibliography, in addition to being an important research tool for all, will assist in the development of the reference guide.

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3. With respect to paragraph 4 V (d) of resolution 46/116, a substantial project has been undertaken with the aim of completing the manuscript of an updated and restructured United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights by the autumn of 1992. The new publication will more coherently reflect the priorities of the United Nations human rights programme and is expected to be an important working tool in the preparatory process for the World Conference on Human Rights.

4. With respect to Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments and Human Rights: Status of International Instruments, the General Assembly requested, in paragraph 4 V (e) of resolution 46/116, that these publications be updated and their scope extended to include the texts of regional instruments on human rights. Contacts have been made with the regional human rights organizations responsible for such instruments, with the aim of compiling a full inventory of the texts to be included. It is expected that the two updated publications will be issued by the end of 1992.